



Notes from Community Meetings on Albert Davis Park Redevelopment

Meeting Dates:

- **September 26, 2002, 6:30 to 8:00 PM, at the Lake City Community Center**
- **September 28, 2002, 12:00 to 2:00 PM, at the Lake City Branch Library**

Presentations

Maureen O'Neill, Parks and Recreation Manager, NE Sector, gave background on development of the North Neighborhoods Plan.

Mark Johnson, Parks Project Manager, gave background on history of Albert Davis Park.

Kris Snider, Principal, Hewitt Architects, the designers for the park redevelopment, presented the designers' thinking to-date, offering the following values and principles for Albert Davis Park. The park should be:

- Safe for all users.
- Accessible to users of all ages and abilities.
- Accommodating, providing users with seating, lighting, trash receptacles, etc.
- Functional based on the community's needs and desires.
- Integrated with the Library, the Neighborhood Service Center, and the Community Center.
- An enduring place that will last a long time.

Comments of Attendees

Community members were invited to respond to these values and to the drawings that Kris presented. Comments were as follows:

1. Sight lines through the park should be improved. Pick plantings carefully to avoid thick shrubbery.
2. Develop a visual terminus to the mid-block pedestrian way connecting the park to Lake City Way.
3. Keep the park green; not too much concrete, please.

4. Develop a gently sloped path through the park that would be accessible to wheelchair-bound visitors.
5. Provide an area for musical events. A summer concert series in a real park would be great.
6. Provide benches for reading in both sun and shade.
7. There should be a stage area for dramatic productions, perhaps for a puppet theater, and also a place for public speaking.
8. Children should have a play area or areas: a sandbox, natural materials, and things to explore. Play area elements could include:
 - A way to climb up safely: a low bouldering, rock-climbing area.
 - Some sort of barrier between the park and 27th Ave NE that would slow a running child from entering the street; gateways, low walls, raised beds could be used for this purpose.
 - Cubbyholes or caves, similar to those at Carkeek Park.
 - Swings, especially if suspended from tree limbs.
9. Keep the park as natural as possible: rocks rather than swings and slides, wood pieces rather than metal and plastic.
10. The park should support multiple uses.
11. (Note that basketball courts are already available across 125th Street NE.)
12. Make the park a peaceful place: a garden with flowers and roses that could be tended by residents in the area. No basketball courts, please!
13. Sidewalks along 27th Ave NE are important.
14. Lighting should be improved for safety and aesthetics.
15. Low maintenance, native plantings would be good.
16. Make all parts of the park useable.
17. Use water in the park: a water feature and/or make storm water drainage visible.
18. Make it easy for dog owners to use the park and clean up after their dogs: provide plastic bags.

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